

EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Meeting of May 4, 2011

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

MEMBERS (ECCAB) :

Present: Marva Deskins, Esq. (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq. (Vice Chair); Allan Mulligan (Secretary); Thomas J. Aylward; Tamika S. Bennett; Sally Colgan; Peter Myo Khin; Paul Myers; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Anthony Ramirez; Odessa Shannon; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas; Teddy Wu

Absent: Lucretia Bartley; Alfreda H. Payne; Odessa Shannon; Ned B. Williams; Rachel Whavers

STAFF (EMRSC): Joy Nurmi, Director, and Nona Watson, Program Manager

GUESTS: Neeta Datt (Community liaison for Sen. Karen Montgomery, District 14); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Wil Gutierrez (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Mark Pharaoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Jonathan Jayes-Green (Delgate Hixon's Office); Frank Altrichter (Library); Richard Simpson (Resident); Sharon Wilder (Cross Creek Club); Bob Bartol (GCCA Representative); Bob Sylwester (Valley Stream Estates).

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Chair Marva Deskins – Welcomed all before presiding over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and to share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.

Chair Marva Deskins – Announced presentations by Maryland State senators and State Delegates, Montgomery County

- Senator Karen S. Montgomery, Montgomery County, District 14
- Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Montgomery County, District 14
- Delegate Eric G. Luedtke, Montgomery County, District 14
- Delegate Craig J. Zucker, Montgomery County District 14
- Senator Jamin Raskin, Montgomery County, District 20
- Delegate Tom Hucker, Montgomery County, District 20

PRESENTATIONS - Presentations and updates were given by all speakers regarding accomplishments and plans underway, especially as it relates to the East County.

Q & A session followed.

Chair Deskins– Thanked the speakers for their presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[May 4, 2011 -1] Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of April 6, 2011. The motion was moved by Tom Aylward; seconded by David Kochanski and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Attached

COUNCIL REPORTS -None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Deskins- Members discussed on cancelling July Board meetings and came to a conclusion.

[May 4, 2011 -2] A motion to cancel July 2011 ECCAB meeting was offered. The motion was moved by David Kochanski; seconded by Thomas Aylward and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT -**Chair Marva Deskins** – made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

[May 4, 2011 -3] A motion made by David Kochanski to adjourn the meeting of May 4, 2011 was passed. The motion was seconded by Len Newman and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for June 1, 2011.

Director's Report – May 2011

Welcome New Board Member!!!

The ECCAB has yet another new Board Member – Rachel Whavers of Calverton. Rachel is also a newly appointed member of the East County Science Center Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee. Welcome!

COLESVILLE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL – May 21st - 10am-4pm

ECCAB MEMBER – PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP STAFF THE ECCAB TABLE AT THE FESTIVAL!!!!

Festival held Rain or Shine at the Colesville Elementary School & Community Center, Corner of Hobbs Drive & New Hampshire Avenue.

**Business Exhibits * Hillandale Volunteer Fire Dept.
Kids Games * Auction * Plant Sales * Antique Cars
Lions Club Eye Bus * FREE Face Painting * Craft Fair
BANDS: Make Love & War, special guests: Garden State Line,
White Oak Jazz Band
Bulk Sale: Flats of STRAWBERRIES
Food Sale: * Drinks * Hot Dogs * Fresh STRAWBERRIES & Ice Cream
Free Parking at site
Proceeds will go to C-4, the Colesville Council of Community Congregations.**

Burtonsville Crossroads Neighborhood Plan Open House at EC Regional Center – May 11th

Don't miss an upcoming opportunity to have a conversation with Montgomery County planners about the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan. Planners will be back out to Burtonsville on May 11 to present their preliminary recommendations. At this open house, held at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center from 5 -7 pm, residents may drop in and learn about staff's preliminary recommendations for the commercial area.

Next IDA Sector Meeting – June 15th

The next IDA Sector Meeting will be on June 15th in partnership with the Greencastle Manor community. It will be at 7 p.m. at the East County Community Center (Rec Center).

East County Science Center Master Plan Meeting

The East County Science Center Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee met on April 26th at Francis Scott Key Middle School. Approximately 20 people were also in the audience. Park and Planning's lead planner on the ECSCMP, Nancy Sturgeon, gave an overview of the P&P work plan and schedule, and had ESCMP CAC members introduce themselves and discuss why they are participating. There is a wide range of expertise and representation from the civic, business and development community. Adventist Health Care's senior vice president, Jere Stocks, has

agreed to be the interim chair. Many members commented on the traffic congestion in the area and the lack of good transportation options, including lack of mass transit. People also expressed a desire to see more retail/restaurant/shopping opportunities, along with mixed use development. The group expressed an urgency to capitalize on the opportunity to bring more of all of these elements to the East County in the next few years through the master plan effort.

Leggett Announces Results of Pepco Work Group

Last October, County Executive Ike Leggett appointed a workgroup to investigate causes for Pepco's frequent and lengthy electricity outages in Montgomery County. It has now presented its final report to the Executive.

Included in the 192-page document are 30 recommendations for Pepco, six to local governments and 20 for the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) that regulates public utilities in the state. In summary, the Work Group recommends that:

- The Maryland Public Service Commission establish stringent standards and utilize its authority to impose remedies sufficient to align Pepco's financial interests with the interests of the community. Pepco should be measured against publicly-disclosed best-in-class performance, should adopt industry best practices, and should proactively seek continual improvement. In support, the state should assure that the PSC is appropriately staffed to implement such a process.
- Pepco adopt, fund and execute a multi-year plan for system inspection, maintenance and enhancement that, with appropriate measures of results, to replace its current largely reactive process of responding to failures and to public scrutiny. Pepco's proposed Six-Point "Reliability Enhancement Plan," while constructive, falls short of meeting this requirement in both scope and urgency.
- Pepco upgrade both its human and automated processes for providing timely and accurate information to customers and government representatives during both major and non-major events.
- Pepco also implement processes and procedures to assure that sufficient personnel (employees and contractors) are available to successfully undertake all preventative maintenance necessary to assure reliable electric service on an ongoing basis and to restore service in a timely manner during outages.
- In order to help create a more customer-oriented culture, Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI/Pepco's parent company) should establish an ombudsman activity relating to Pepco that reports directly to the Chairman and CEO of PHI.
- Montgomery County and other local governments work with Pepco to provide the authority needed to implement more effective vegetation management programs while respecting, to the greatest extent possible, customer concerns in this area.

New Code Enforcement Laws Aimed at Protecting Quality of Life Now In Effect

New code enforcement laws designed to help protect and maintain the residential character of neighborhoods will go into effect on Sunday, April 24, 2011. These new laws deal with home-based businesses, off-street parking and paving of front yards. Two other laws to protect residential areas went into effect in July 2009 and April 2010.

The new laws were proposed by County Executive Isiah Leggett two years ago based on recommendations from a Code Enforcement Work Group that he appointed. The work group reviewed a number of police, housing and zoning code issues that were causing adverse impacts and public safety issues in residential neighborhoods.

Zoning Text Amendment 09-03 makes changes to the County Zoning Ordinance that limits the impact of home occupations on residential neighborhoods, the paving of front yards and off-street parking for light commercial vehicles.

One of the measures proposed by Leggett, Bill 23-09, limits the storage of inoperable, unused and unregistered vehicles on residential properties to 30 days. This measure was enacted by the Council in October 2009 and went into effect on April 15, 2010.

Bill 27-08, the County Executive's initiative limiting heavy commercial and recreational vehicles in residential areas, was enacted by the County Council in January 2009 and went into effect on July 1, 2009. This bill improves safety and addresses the proliferation over the past decade of these types of vehicles on neighborhood streets. Parking large, commercial or recreational vehicles in residential neighborhoods limits the line of sight on roads, making it difficult to turn on narrow streets. Additionally, large vehicles endanger pedestrians because oncoming traffic cannot see them.

Most of the provisions of Zoning Text Amendment 09-03 go into effect on April 24, 2011. Surfaced areas paved before October 26, 2010 do not have to be removed if the paved area is not increased. The occupants must comply with the law's parking limitations effective October 24, 2011.

A website to educate residents about these new zoning laws is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/goodneighbors.

REMINDER - Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training

The BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Executive Office Building - Lobby Auditorium

The Offices of the County Executive will be offering **ETHICS AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING** for **staff liaisons and members** of all Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs) on **Wednesday evening, May 18, 2011, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. The training will be presented by the County Attorney's Office. Registration will begin immediately. If you have any questions about the BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training, please contact Beth Gochrach at (240) 777-2528.